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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for securing a body mount support bracket to a portion of a vehicle body and frame assembly comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a body mount support bracket including a central body portion having a pair of leg portions depending therefrom;

(b) creating internal stresses within the body mount support bracket by moving the leg portions of the body mount support bracket relative to the central body portion of the body mount support bracket to create the internal stresses within the body mount support bracket; and

(c) securing the body mount support bracket to a portion of a vehicle body and frame assembly so as to maintain the internal stresses therein.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~ wherein said step (a) is performed by providing the central body portion with an aperture therethrough.

4. (Original) The method defined in Claim 3 wherein said step (a) is performed by providing leg portions that extend from the central body portion and diverge apart from one another.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 4 ~~[[5]]~~ wherein said step (b) is performed by moving the leg portions of the body mount support bracket inwardly toward one another.

7. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 4 ~~[[5]]~~ wherein said step (b) is performed by moving the leg portions of the body mount support bracket outwardly apart from one another.

8. (Original) The method defined in Claim 3 wherein said step (a) is performed by providing leg portions that extend from the central body portion generally parallel to one another.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 8 ~~[[9]]~~ wherein said step (b) is performed by moving the leg portions of the body mount support bracket inwardly toward one another.

11. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 8 ~~[[9]]~~ wherein said step (b) is performed by moving the leg portions of the body mount support bracket outwardly apart from one another.

12. (Original) The method defined in Claim 3 wherein said step (a) is performed by providing leg portions that extend from the central body portion and converge toward one another.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 12 ~~[[13]]~~ wherein said step (b) is performed by moving the leg portions of the body mount support bracket inwardly toward one another.

15. (Currently Amended) The method defined in Claim 12 ~~[[13]]~~ wherein said step (b) is performed by moving the leg portions of the body mount support bracket outwardly apart from one another.

16. (Original) The method defined in Claim 1 wherein said step (c) is performed by securing the body mount support bracket to a portion of a vehicle body and frame assembly by one of welding and adhesives.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a vehicle body and frame assembly comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a frame portion;
- (b) securing a body mount support bracket to a portion of the frame portion by providing a body mount support bracket including a central body portion having a pair of leg portions depending therefrom; creating internal stresses within the body mount support bracket by moving the leg portions of the body mount support bracket relative to the central body portion of the body mount support bracket to create the internal stresses within the body mount support bracket; and securing the body mount support bracket to a portion of a vehicle body and frame assembly so as to maintain the internal stresses therein;
- (c) providing a body portion having a body mount; and
- (d) supporting the body mount of the body portion on the body mount support bracket of the frame portion to provide a vehicle body and frame assembly.